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➤BOOK NOTICES.◀

[All publications received, which relate directly or indirectly to the Old Testament, will be promptly noticed under this head. Attention will not be confined to new books; but notices will be given, so far as possible, of such old books, in this department of study, as may be of general interest to pastors and students.]

THE YALKUT ON ZECHARIAH.*

A compilation from the Talmud and Midrash, in illustration of the Bible, called "Yalkut Shim'oni" was made in the eleventh century. Part I., taking up about two-thirds of the book, was devoted to the Pentateuch; Part II. included the remainder of the Old Testament. The word Yalkut means *bag, purse*. Of this Yalkut twelve editions have been printed, the last in 1876—7. As an illustration of the matter contained in the book the following on Zech. xl. 8 is given:

And I cut off the three shepherds in one month.

Did they then actually die in one month? For did not Miriam die in Nisan, and Aaron in Av, and Moses in Adar? But the fact is the good gifts, which had been given to Israel by their means, ceased in one month.

R. Yose, son of R. Yehudah, said, Three good Guides were given to Israel and three good gifts were given by their means:

These are they:—The Manna, the Well, and the Pillar of Cloud.

The Well—for the merit of Miriam;

The Pillar of Cloud—for the merit of Aaron;

And the Manna—for the merit of Moses.

Miriam died:—then the Well departed; as it is said, "*And Miriam died there*" (Num. xx., 1), and it is written (immediately) afterwards, "*And there was no water for the Congregation*" (Num. xx., 2). But it came back again through the merit of Moses and Aaron.

Aaron died:—then the Pillar of Cloud departed. As it is said, "*And all the Congregation saw that Aaron had expired*" (Num. xx., 29). R. Abbuhu said, Do not interpret וַיִּרְאוּ, "*and they saw*" but וַיִּירְאוּ, "*and they feared*." But both of them (i. e. the Well and the Pillar of Cloud) came back through the merit of Moses.

Moses died:—(then) all three departed; and thus we may interpret that Scripture which says, "*And I cut off the three Shepherds in one month.*"

In the Time to come they will all three come back, as it is said:—

"*They shall not hunger*" (Is. xlix., 10).—This means the Manna.

"*And they shall not thirst*" (Is. xlix., 10).—This means the Well.

"*Neither shall the glare nor the sun smite them*" (Is. xlix., 10).—This means the Pillar of Cloud.

"*But by fountains of waters He shall lead them*" (Is. xlix., 10). It is not said "*a fountain*" but "*fountains*."

In the Time to Come there will go forth for Israel twelve fountains corresponding to the twelve Tribes.

Two interesting appendices are added, the first of which is on *Messiah Ben Joseph*. Here the writer endeavors to show that the Jewish belief in a Messiah Ben Joseph is not of late date, as is assumed by most scholars, but has its germ even in the Book of Genesis, and that it "runs through the whole Jewish history, disappearing at times, but always breaking out again with increased vividness." The second appendix treats of a remarkable tradition which existed in very early

* Translated with Notes and Appendices by EDWARD G. KING, B. D., Hebrew Lecturer at Sidney Sussex College and Vicar of Madingley. London: G. Bell & Sons. 8vo, pp. 122.

times respecting the *exaltation* and *enlargement* of Jerusalem. There is not a doubt that much light is to be shed upon the Old Testament, and particularly upon the New, by such investigations as the one before us. Work in this line has but commenced. There is no field from which greater treasures may be obtained. than from that of the old Jewish writings. Nor has any field been more neglected.

THE TYPES OF GENESIS.*

This book belongs to the same class as C. II. M's Notes. It is, however, far worse. According to this author, "Genesis reveals to us all that can spring out of Adam and his sons. Here we may read how Adam behaved, and what races and peoples sprang out of him. In spirit we may learn how old Adam behaves, what the old man is in each of us, and all the immense variety which can grow out of him." The writer adopts in every case a triple interpretation. Besides the literal, of which it would seem that little is made, there are the inward or moral, the outward or allegoric, and the dispensational or anagogic senses. It is needless to urge that such methods make the Bible a riddle, render it impossible to assign any certain meaning to any certain passage, and destroy absolutely its worth and usefulness. The mysteries which are supposed by such interpreters to be found in numbers, names of persons and places, etc., are many; they are not more strange, however, than the fact, sad as it may be, that there are, in these days, those who can write, and those who will believe such absurdities as are contained on every page of this volume.

OUTLINES OF ANCIENT HISTORY.†

The author of this manual is correct in saying that manuals of history are too often mere crowded inventories of events, and so not only fail of awakening an intelligent interest in what should be the most engaging of studies, but repel and dishearten the student. In no department of study is it so difficult to find a good text-book, as in the department of history. It is also true that first-rate teachers in this department are as rare as first-rate text-books. This book has three features which deserve mention: (1) The fact that so much of the space, at the command of the author, has been given to the account of the arts, sciences, literature and religion of the various nations. Is it not true that "the character and work of a Moses, a Solon, or a Lycurgus have been far more potent elements in the formation of the complex product we call civilization, and therefore more worthy of a place in our thoughts as students of a growing humanity, than the petty wars and intrigues of kings and emperors, whose only claim upon our atten-

*The Types of Genesis, briefly considered, as revealing the development of Human Nature, by Andrew Jukes. Fourth edition. New York: Thomas Whittaker. 8vo, pp. 421. Price \$2.00.

† Outlines of Ancient History, from the earliest times to the fall of the Western Roman Empire, A. D. 476, embracing the Egyptians, Chaldeans, Assyrians, Babylonians, Hebrews, Phoenicians, Medes, Persians, Greeks and Romans; designed for private reading and as a manual of instruction, by P. V. N. Myers, A. M., President of Farmer's College, Ohio. New York: Harper and Brothers. 8vo, pp. 480. Price \$1.75.